

Arizona's Alternative A-F Letter Grade Model



JUNE 6, 2012

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RESEARCH & EVALUATION



Purpose for Today's Discussion

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- Technical & Policy changes relating to 2012 A-F Letter Grade Calculations
- Components of Alternative A-F Letter Grade Model
- Appeals process
- ADE timelines for data correction, preliminary classifications, appeals, and final determinations

What's New for 2012?

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- Legislative Changes
- 95% Tested Rules
- A-F model refinements
- ELL Reclassification Criteria
- Alternative Parallel Model

Legislative Changes

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AZ LEARNS-LEGACY “F” LETTER GRADES

What's New for 2012 – AZ LEARNS replaced & 'F' Letter Grades

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Senate Bill 1458 (*Laws 2012, Ch. 67*) impacts accountability in two important ways:

- **The law replaces the AZ LEARNS-Legacy Achievement Profiles with A-F Letter Grades.**
 - ADE will no longer calculate AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles for schools
 - Entities will be held accountable only to A-F Letter Grades beginning in 2012
- **Schools/LEAs can be assigned a letter grade of 'F' beginning with the labels issued for the 2011-2012 school year**
 1. If the entity was required to participate in the mandatory school improvement process pursuant to A.R.S §15-241 in 2010 and 2011 and ...
 2. is assigned a letter grade of 'D' for the first time in July 2012

95% TESTED

What's New for 2012 - 95% Tested Rule for AIMS & AIMS A

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Schools are required *to test all students*

- In alignment with the US Department of Education's approval of Arizona's request for flexibility from ESEA, one important component included in the A-F system is a 95% Tested requirement
- The new rule requires schools/LEAs to test 95% of students taking **AIMS & AIMS A** in the current year
- Pursuant to federal requirements, the 1% cap will be applied at the LEA level

95% Tested Rule

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- A single schoolwide measure (Reading & Math combined)

Students Tested

Students Enrolled

- Includes students in Grades 3-8 and Grade 10 for AIMS & AIMS A
- Both FAY & non-FAY students are included
- **Tested** = students with a test record and an enrollment record
 - Valid test score
 - Enrolled on Test Date (HS) or on first day of testing window (ES)
- **Enrolled** = students enrolled on test date with enrollment record, with or without test record

What's New for 2012 – Consequences of Failing to Test 95%

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Percentage of Students Tested	Maximum Letter Grade Allowed
95% or higher	A
85-94%	B
75-84%	C
Less than 75%	D



The 95% Tested rule applies to ALL A-F Accountability Models

ADDITIONAL GROWTH POINT

What's New for 2012 – Additional Point in the Growth Component

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- The A-F Letter Grade models are set up so that a school/LEA can earn up to 100 points in the Growth portion and an additional 100 points on the Composite side of the model
- The growth portion of the model, however, is made up of percentiles which range from 1-99
- **All schools will receive one (1) additional point** allowing for the growth points to reach a total possible of 100 points to equate the two sides of the model

AIMS A

What's New for 2012 – Inclusion of AIMS A

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- Students taking AIMS A will be included in the Composite portion of all A-F Letter Grade models
- Students participating in AIMS A who have demonstrated proficiency (i.e. *Meets* or *Exceeds*) in the current year will be accounted for in the percent passing calculation

ELL RECLASSIFICATION RATE

What's New for 2012 – ELL Reclassification Rate Criteria

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Criteria	2012	Previous
Minimum N-count for Eligibility	Schools serving 10 or more ELL students school-wide will be included	Schools serving 16 or more ELL students school-wide
Eligibility for ELL Additional Points	Must test at least 95% of ELL students with a demonstrated ELL need on AZELLA during end-of-year testing*	
Enrollment	FAY students <u>only</u>	Continuously enrolled for 150 or more days in ELL program
Additional Inclusion	ELL students withdrawn by parent request <u>are included</u> in the ELL reclassification rate calculation	Previously excluded from the calculation
30% Reclassification Rate = 3 points		

*Pursuant to A.R.S §15-756 (B), which mandates the assessment of English language proficiency of all pupils with a primary or home language other than English

A-F Letter Grade Accountability System



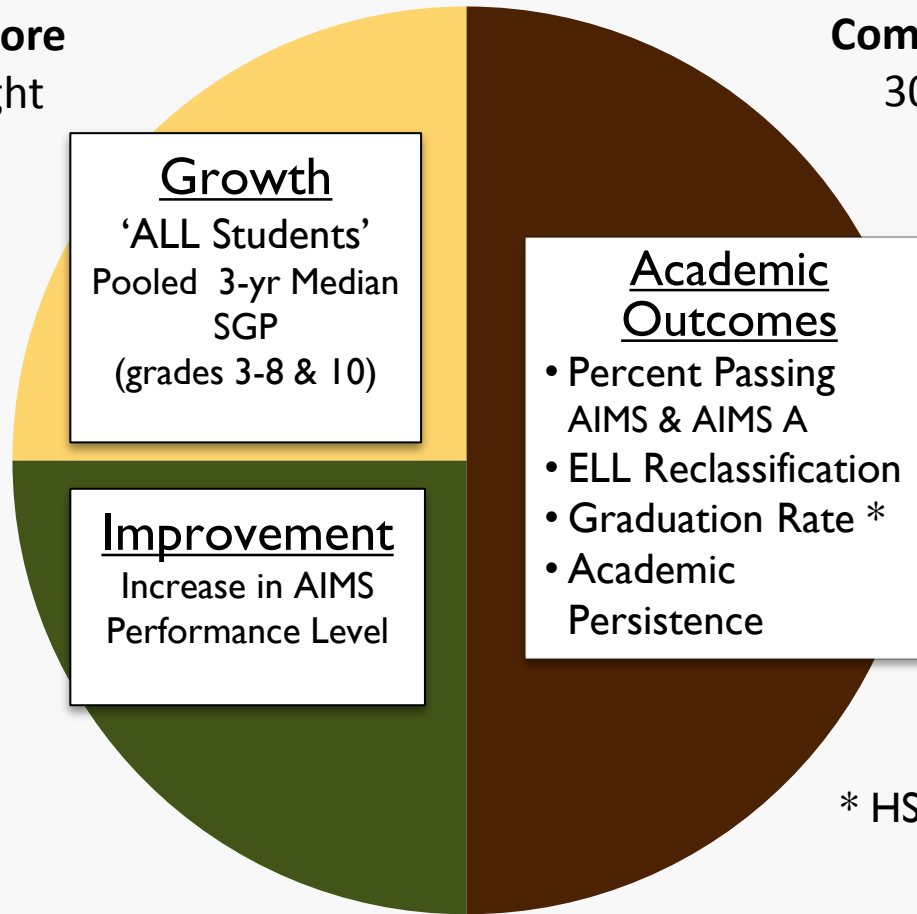
ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL MODEL

The Alternative Schools Model

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Growth Score
70% weight

Composite Score
30% weight



Composite Score + Growth Score = A-F ALT Letter Grade

Alternative Schools Model – Full Academic Year

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- An Alternative Full Academic Year (FAY) based on students enrolled up to **October 1st** in current year and continuously enrolled through AIMS testing
 - Day of test for high school grades
 - First day of testing window for elementary grades

COMPOSITE SCORE

Alternative Schools – Percent Passing & ELL

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- **Percent Passing** (Reading & Mathematics) on AIMS & AIMS A in current year
 - Grades 3-8, 10
 - Better of Fall/Spring for grades 11 and 12
 - Weighted 30% in the overall calculation

Composite Score - Absolute Achievement



- **Percentage Passing AIMS & AIMS A in current year (2012)**

- FAY students who *Meet* and *Exceed* the standards on the AIMS and AIMS A Reading & Mathematics tests

FAY students proficient on AIMS + # FAY students proficient on AIMS A

of FAY AIMS & AIMS A students tested

- The High School calculation includes the better of Spring/Fall AIMS results for FAY students in grades 11 and 12
 - Fall 2011 **or** Spring 2012
- The Percent Passing score represents the total proportion of students schoolwide passing AIMS Reading & Mathematics
- Worth 0-100 possible points weighted by 30%

Composite Score – Percent Passing Example



Percent Passing	AIMS & AIMS A Students in Current Year
Reading	25%
Mathematics	20%
Schoolwide Average (Reading and Mathematics)	23%
Passing Points (without weighting)	23 points
Passing Points (Weighted 30%)	14 POINTS

Example: The Composite Score is 30% of the A-F Accountability Profile

Calculation	Multiply by weight	Multiply by 2 for a 200 point scale
(Percent Passing x .3)	$23 \times .3 = 6.9$	14

ELL Reclassification Rate

23

- **ELL Reclassification Rate Points (0 or 3 pts)**

- ✦ Calculated in same manner as other A-F models

Criteria

- School wide *n* count of equal to or greater than 10 ELL students
- Must have 95% tested on AZELLA end-of-year testing
 - All ELL students – *every student with a need* (e.g., SEI, ILLP, Bi-Lingual, Parent Withdrawn)
 - FAY or non-FAY ELL students
- 30% Reclassification of FAY ELL students

Alternative Schools – 5 Year Graduation Rate

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One year average from 2009- 2010 School Year = 40%

Three year average = 38%

Criteria is based on one half of one standard deviation above the Alternative Schools statewide average graduation rates

Criteria for Grad Rate Additional points are earned in one of three ways

Graduation Rates	In order to meet the Target	Points Earned
3-Year Average for 5-Yr Grad Rate	$\geq 48\%$	0 or 3
Current Year 5-Yr Grad Rate $\geq 52\%$	1% Increase	0 or 3
Current Year 5-Yr Grad Rate $< 52\%$	2% Increase	0 or 3

In 2012, the Baseline Year will be 2006 or the school's first year serving grade 12, whichever is the latest.

Academic Persistence

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- **Academic Persistence Points (0 or 3 pts)**
 - ✦ An academically persistent student is one who returns to any public school the following school year (includes retained students & excludes graduates)
 - ✦ Schools must meet a persistence rate of 70%
 - ✦ The former school will receive credit for academic persistence

Composite Score – Alternative School Model



Additional Points Possible	
ELL Reclassification Target	0 or 3
Graduation Rate Target*	0 or 3
Academic Persistence	0 or 3
Total	9 additional points (HS) 6 additional points (Elem/Mid)

*HS only

GROWTH SCORE

Improvement

Alternative Schools Model – Improvement

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- This measure captures the academic improvement across performance bands from one performance level to a higher performance level
 - FFB to Approaches, Meets, or Exceeds
 - Approaches to Meets or Exceeds
 - Meets to Exceeds

Alternative Schools Model – Improvement

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- Students in **Grades 3-8 & 10** must have test scores in the two most recent test administrations
 - Spring 2011 AIMS to Spring 2012 AIMS
- Students in **Grades 11 and 12** must have test scores in the two most recent test administrations
 - Spring AIMS 2011 to Fall AIMS 2011 - ***Across School Years***
 - Fall AIMS 2011 to Spring AIMS 2012 – ***Within Same School Year***
- The number of improvement for Reading and Mathematics are averaged for an overall improvement score

Example – Improvement, Grades 3-8 & 10

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Unique Student ID	CY Grade (SY 2011-2012)	2011 AIMS Performance Level	2012 AIMS Performance Level	Difference of 2011- 2010 AIMS Performance Level s	Improvement from one Performance Level to the Next (1=Yes; 0=No)
288M109	3	Meets	Meets	-	0
288M134	5	Approaches	Approaches	0	0
288M142	5	Falls Far Below	Approaches	+	1
288M161	6	Approaches	Falls Far Below	-	0
288M190	6	Meets	Meets	-	0
288M195	6	Meets	Exceeds	+	1
288M204	7	Approaches	Meets	+	1
288M205	7	Meets	Meets	-	0
288M21	7	Falls Far Below	Meets	+	1
288M23	7	Meets	Approaches	-	0
288M235	8	Falls Far Below	Approaches	+	1
288M24	8	Falls Far Below	Approaches	+	1
288M264	8	Falls Far Below	Meets	+	1
288M272	10	Falls Far Below	Meets	+	1
288M32	10	Meets	Meets	0	0
Total					8/15

Example – Improvement Grade 11 and 12

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Unique Student ID	CY Grade (SY 2011-2012)	Spring 2011 AIMS Performance Level	Fall 2011 AIMS Performance Level	Difference of Fall 2011- Spring 2011 AIMS Performance Level	Improvement from one Performance Level to the Next (1=Yes; 0=No)
288M65	11	Falls Far Below	Meets	+	1
288M34	11	Meets	Approaches	-	0
288M345	11	Falls Far Below	Approaches	+	1
288M65	11	Falls Far Below	Approaches	+	1
288M271	11	Falls Far Below	Meets	+	1
288M277	11	Falls Far Below	Meets	+	1
288M37	11	Meets	Meets	0	0
Total					5/7

Unique Student ID	CY Grade (SY 2011-2012)	Fall 2011 AIMS Performance Level	Spring 2012 AIMS Performance Level	Difference of Spring 2012- Fall 2011 AIMS Performance Level	Improvement from one Performance Level to the Next (1=Yes; 0=No)
288M345	11	Falls Far Below	Meets	+	1
288M65	11	Meets	Approaches	-	0
288M271	11	Falls Far Below	Approaches	+	1
288M277	11	Falls Far Below	Approaches	+	1
288M37	11	Falls Far Below	Meets	+	1
Total					4/5

Example - Improvement

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Grades	Opportunity to Improve	Student Improvement	%
Grade 3-8 (Spring 2011 – Spring 2012)	15	8	
Grade 10, 11, and 12 (Spring 2011 – Fall 2011)	7	5	
Grade 10, 11, and 12 (Fall 2011 – Spring 2012)	5	4	
Average Improvement for Mathematics	27	17	63%

Improvement Score = The average of students who had the opportunity to move from one performance level to the next and showed improvement

Reading is calculated the same way and averaged with Math for a final score

Example – Improvement

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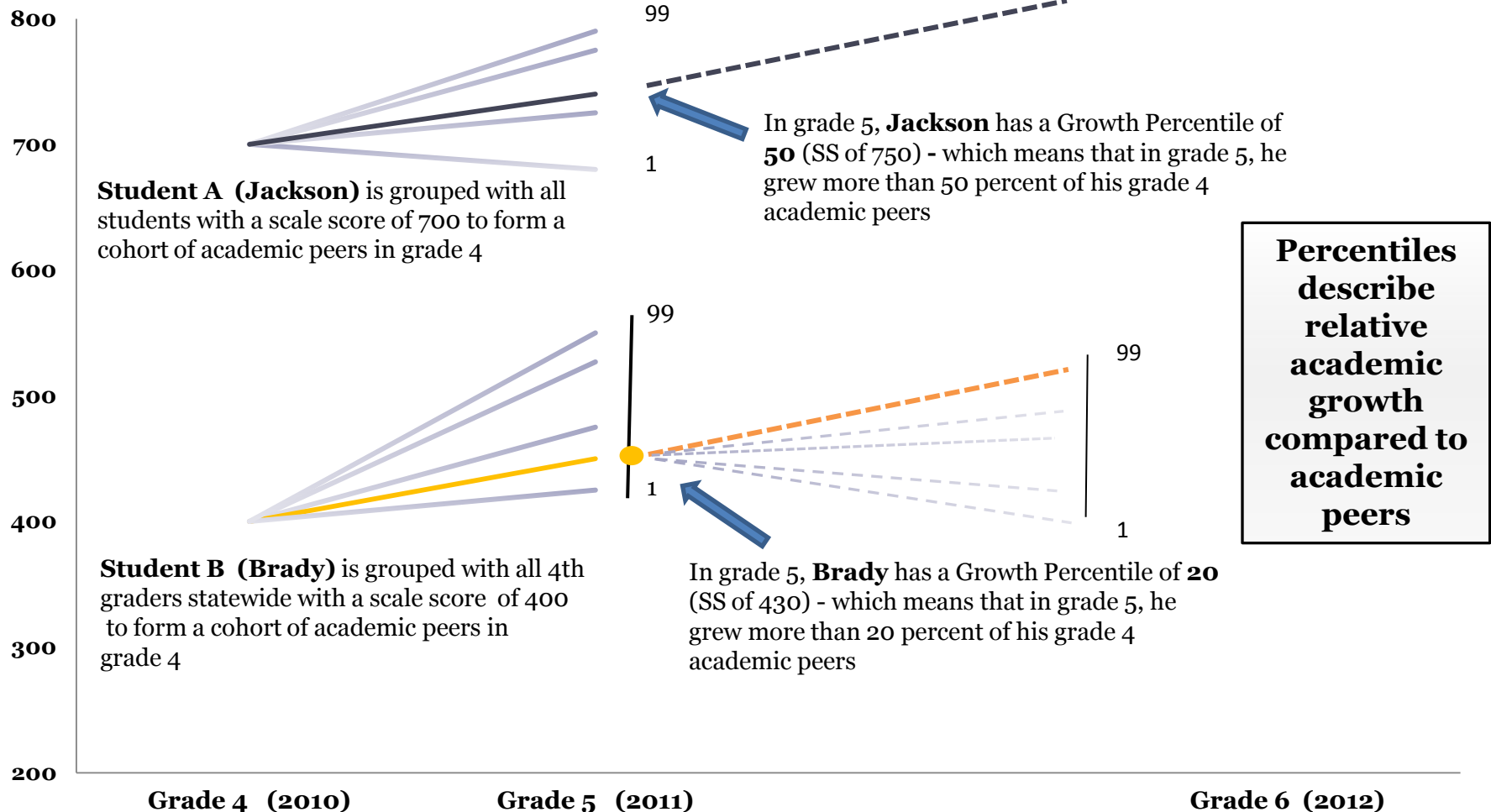
Subject	# Students	# Students that showed Improvement	Percentage of Students that showed Improvement
Math	27	17	63%
Reading	27	24	89%
Average Improvement of Reading and Mathematics			76%
Improvement Points (Percentage x 100)			76

Student Growth Percentile

Alternative School Model - Growth

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SGP in grade 6 (2012) relative to academic peers who started at the same point



The Growth Model – What the data can tell us



Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) help answer questions such as:

- *“How well are our students scoring in relation to the scores of other students in the state?”*
- *“How have our struggling students improved over the past school year compared to their peers across the state?”*

Calculating Growth – ‘All Students’



Student Level (statewide)

- A percentile rank (1-99) is computed for Reading and for Mathematics separately by grade for all students statewide
- SGP's for FAY students are used for accountability purposes

School Level Measure (Schoolwide - All Students)

- A median growth percentile is derived from all of the FAY students within one school by subject and grade. These two medians (i.e., Reading & Mathematics) are averaged for an “All Students” Median Growth Percentile
- *Median is the middle of the distribution of student growth percentiles and is understood as the middle student in the school*

Example: A median SGP of 65 means that the middle student in the school grew more than 65% of other ‘middle’ students in schools statewide

Alternative School Model – Total Growth

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- **Growth** – All Students
 - Pooled 3-Year Median Growth Percentile
 - Grades 3-8 & 10
 - Median SGP's for Reading & Mathematics will be averaged
- **Improvement** – All Students
 - Grades 3-8, 10, 11, & 12
 - Improvement Points for Reading & Mathematics will be averaged
- The average median SGP from Growth and the Improvement points will sum to the **Total Growth Score** equal to a point value between 1-100* and weighted 70% of overall calculation (before additional points are added)

*Growth points (prior to weighting) will be capped at 100

Calculating the Growth Score – Total Growth Points



Example

Growth Component	Median Growth Percentile
Average Median Growth Percentile for Reading and Math - All FAY Students	15
Average Improvement for Reading and Math – All FAY Students	76
Overall Growth Score - (the average of the medians for ‘All Students’ and Improvement) without weighting	91 points

Example: The Growth Score is 70% of the A-F Accountability Profile

A-F Alternative School Letter Grade

Theoretical Calculation

Calculation	Multiply by weight	Multiply by 2 for a 200 point scale
(Growth x .7)	$100 \times .7 = 70$	140
(Percent Passing x .3)	$100 \times .3 = 30$	60
		200 Points

Example – Alternative School Model

Calculation	Multiply by weight	Multiply by 2 for a 200 point scale
(Growth x .7)	$91 \times .7 = 63.7$	127
(Percent Passing x .3)	$23 \times .3 = 6.9$	14
		141 Points

Example – Alternative School Model

Component	Points	Weight	Weighted Points
Overall Growth Score - (the sum for ‘All Students’ and Improvement)	91	70%	127
Percent Passing	23	30%	14
ELL Reclassification	3		3
Graduation Rate	3		3
Academic Persistence	3		3
Total Points			150

Alternative Schools – Final Letter Grade

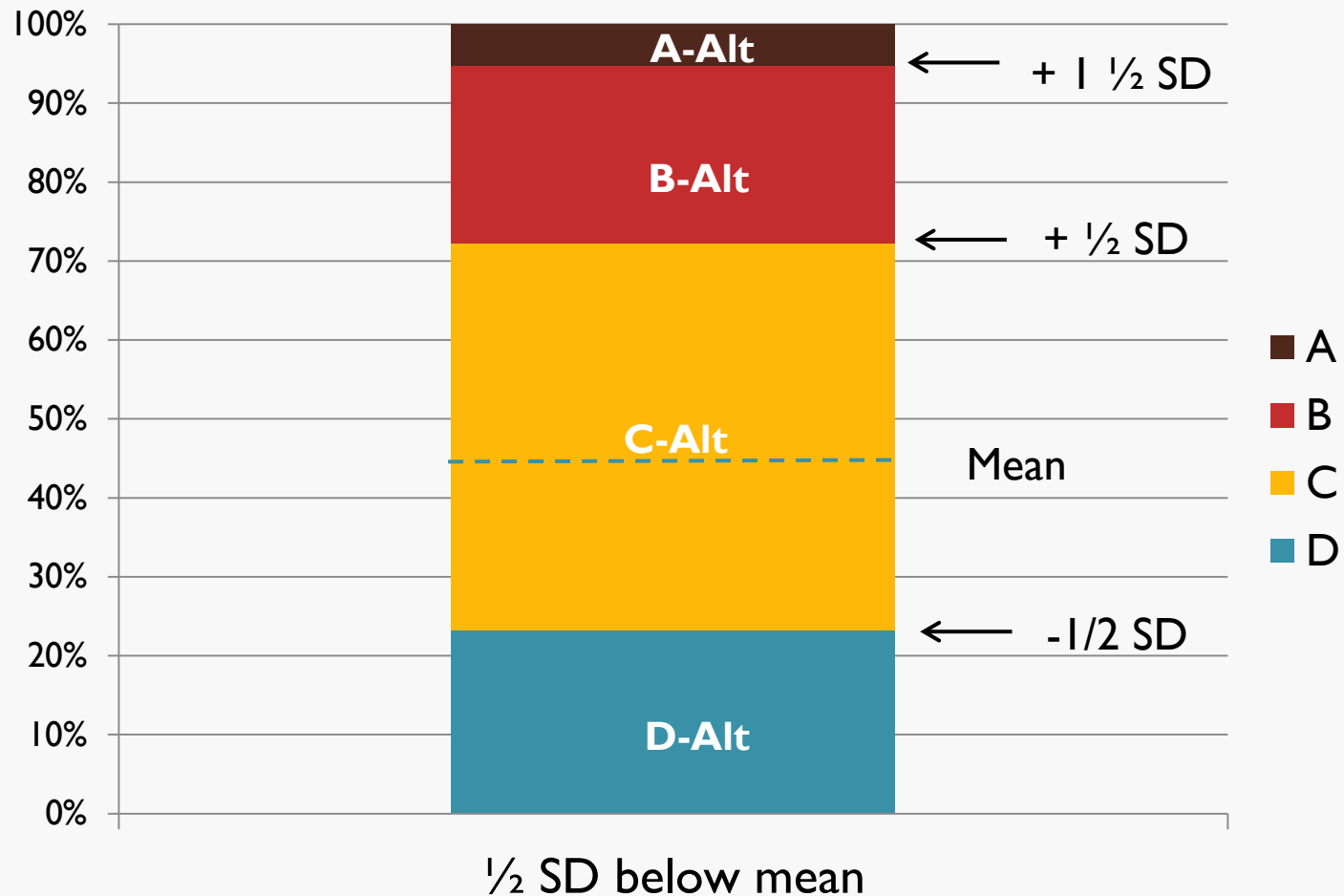
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Distribution-Based Scale - letter grade thresholds based upon the mean and standard deviations of the total point distributions of Alternative School students only

- Cut scores are set by +/- one and one half standard deviation around the mean
- Total Points possible 209 pts (Growth + Percent Passing + Additional Points)
- Letter Grades for Alternative Schools
 - **A-Alternative**
 - **B-Alternative**
 - **C-Alternative**
 - **D-Alternative**

Alternative School Model – Final Letter Grade Distribution-based Scale

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Note: Based on impact data

LEA Letter Grades – Growth + Composite

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- **Growth** Points will be averaged
- **Percent Passing** points will be calculated at the LEA level
 - 1% cap applies at the LEA level for students taking AIMS A
- **ELL Reclassification Rate** points will be calculated at the LEA level
 - 95% Tested and n-count of at least 10 students district wide
- **Graduation & Dropout** Points will be calculated at the LEA level
- **Final Letter Grade = Growth points + Composite points**
 - Total Points on a 200-point A-F Letter Grade Scale

Important Dates for 2012 Accountability Cycle

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Event	Date
Preliminary Release on Common Logon	June 19, 2012
Substantive Appeals Window Opens	June 19, 2012
Substantive Appeals Window Closes	June 30, 2012
Program Membership Data Corrections Close	June 30, 2012
Grad Rate/Dropout Rate Data Corrections Close	June 30, 2012
Embargoed Release of Final A-F Letter Grades	July 24, 2012
Public Release	July 25, 2012

Substantive Appeals

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- The ***Appeals Application*** on the Common Logon is meant **only for substantive appeals** for *preliminary* A-F Letter Grades
- Substantive reasons for an appeal involve those **circumstances outside of an entity's control that adversely affected student performance** on AIMS and AZELLA.
 - Entities may not appeal the A-F Letter Grade formulae
 - Entities may not appeal the 95% tested rule unless the inability to test 95% or more of the students was due to unique circumstances outside of the school's control.
 - Entities may not appeal individual students' scores.
- Substantive appeals submitted via email will not be accepted and will not be included in the appeals process

Data Corrections

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- Statistical appeals *are no longer accepted via the Appeals Application*. Instead, we are providing a *Data Corrections Window* for SAIS corrections to AZELLA (all ELL-related data) and for AIMS SAIS ID corrections
- All data corrections must be done via SAIS file upload, SAIS Online, or the SAIS ID corrections application and do not require notification being sent to ADE. **All deadlines are at 5:00 p.m. MST.** *Please make sure all data corrections are done well ahead of the deadline*

A-F Letter Grades – Additional Information for Schools/LEAs

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Beginning in 2012, the AIMS Download files will also include the following data:

- Prior Year AIMS Performance Level by subject
- Prior Year AIMS Scale Score by subject
- Prior Year SGP (SGP_ALL)
 - Beginning 2012, a single SGP variable will be provided

Thank You

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